

ABSTRACT

2 Methods are provided for the enhanced delivery of an antigen to antigen-presenting cells
3 such as dendritic cells by conjugating an antigen to a molecule targeted to an endocytic
4 receptor on the dendritic cell, such as DEC-205. The molecule targeted to an endocytic
5 receptor may be a natural ligand to the receptor or an antibody thereto. Conjugates may
6 be covalent complexes or single-chain polypeptides. Together with modulation of the
7 maturation of the dendritic cell, an enhanced immune response or tolerizing immune
8 response may be generated to the antigen. In addition, conjugate molecules including
9 single-chain polypeptides are provided which contain at least an endocytic receptor-
10 binding molecule and a preselected antigen.